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LETTER DATED 24 APRIL 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that United States and American-Saudi aircraft have continued to violate Iraqi airspace, as follows:

I.

1. On 10 April 1991 at 1830 hours, two helicopters of the coalition forces landed at the Jisr checkpoint, near the As Samawah oil refinery. Two groups disembarked and, after ordering the soldiers at the checkpoint to stand clear, took five rifles from a gun rack.

2. On 11 April 1991 at 1200 hours, a United States helicopter violated Iraqi airspace in the Suk-Ashuyukh area and then flew off in the direction of the town of Nasiriyah before returning to the United States forces zone.

II.

1. On 21 April 1991, American-Saudi air activity totalled 163 sorties flown by 80 formations and three solo sorties. The aircraft in question flew at a speed of 720 kilometres per hour and at altitudes ranging between 6,000 and 8,000 metres.

2. The aircraft - F-15s and F-14s - flew mostly over the areas of Baghdad, Ar Ramadi, Hadithah, Tikrit, Karbala', Kut, As Samawah and Nasiriyah. Their mission was to carry out reconnaissance, surveillance and provocation missions, since the aircraft flew over residential areas.

22-23 April 1991

1. American-Saudi air activity totalled 83 sorties flown by 41 formations and one solo sortie. The aircraft in question flew at speeds of between 600 and 720 kilometres per hour and at altitudes ranging from 5,500 to 9,000 metres.

READEX FICHE

2. The aircraft - F-14s and F-15s - flew mainly over northern and eastern Baghdad and the areas of Ar Ramadi, Ar Razzazah, Kut, As Suwayrah and Al Hashimiyah. Their mission was to carry out surveillance and provocation operations.

I should be grateful if you would kindly arrange for the text of this letter to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abdul Amir A. AL-ANBARI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative